MTAC™

MAILERS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

eVS/PTS User Group
Meeting Minutes
Thursday June 9, 2011
3:30pm – 4:30pm EST

Attendees

Andy Lundgren, Brad Obert, Cheryl Hardy, Emil Aquino, Hally M. Damm, James Garnett, Jennifer Howard, Juliaann Hess, Julie Kang, Lisa Copeland, Dawn Whitney, Marsha Martinex, Robert Myers, Shirley Konen, Wade Stephen, John Medeiros, Kim May, Mark Dropp, Peter Klausner, Dave Guinther, Lisa Hyater, Tony Wells

Welcome – Lisa Hyater

- Roll Call

Sub-Groups Updates – David Guinther/Juliaann Hess

- Content Based Pricing (David Guinther)
    - 2 Issues were noted:
        - Clients of eVS mailers *requested business rules of the audit* process and business rules for adjustments
        - eVS mailers requested a fair and easy way to understand the rules and a process/*adjustments* defendable to the clients
    - Comments from the mailers were noted.
    - Request time and day for next sub-group meeting
        - 6/23/2011 tentative date
- Tracking Number Overlabeling/Aliasing (Juliaann Hess)
    - Overlabeling approach was decided upon:
        - The consensus from the industry was to go with the new version 1.7 file format
            - 2 fields added to the end of the file
                - Overlabel indicator
                - Original label number
    - Purpose of the group fulfilled
    - Outstanding questions
        - Should the original label number included
            - Event Extract File?
            - Postage Extract File?
            - Shipping Partner?
        - Opened the floor for feedback or questions

- John M. - The numbers should be in the scan event extract file. Internal IT teams need to
- Smartpost wants it in the event extract file and the postage extract file
- Special session requested to get input from the industry to get a draft of the requirements (Lisa C.). DHL and Smartpost agreed.
- USPS will start with a draft of what we think the file looks like.
- John M. – What are the best possible cycle times to get this in earlier? We'd like to get it in as soon as possible…especially prior to going into the IMpb environment. Ans. JH – We're looking at a year at least.
- Lisa C. – There will be a shipping partner change in August. This will be a good time to add it to that file.
- Industry needs time to think about this suggestion
- JH – We will put together a white paper regarding issues, recommendations, then meet to go over the white paper and the draft requirements. Find out when we could get it implemented.
- Lisa H. – **Action Item**: Tony will send the white paper out to the group.
- JH – Include the entire group as part of the meeting.
- Lisa H. – **Action Item**: Dawn W. and Lisa C. will work on the document

PTS Status – Lisa Hyater/Juliaann Hess

- PTS Database Reduced from 60 to 45 days (June 13, 2011)
  - Items remain live online for 45 days instead of 60 days
  - Items can be restored after 45 days
  - Items will stay live for an additional 30 days after the restore
  - This change will cause a difference between the PTS unmanifested reports and the eVS unmanifested reports
- PTS June Release (6/26/2011)
  - New Container ID Events
    - C1, L1, T1 – "Depart Sort Facility"
    - A1, U1, R1 – "Arrive Sort Facility"
  - New Scan Events for Open and Distribute Nesting
    - AE – "Arrive USPS Sort Facility"
    - DE – "Depart USPS Sort Facility"
    - OD – "Processed at Destination Facility"
  - International Visibility Enhancements
  - Process Commercial Legacy Barcodes in the version 1.5 and 1.6 format
  - Origin Acceptance Scan
- PTS August Release (8/28/2011)

- o Dispatch Scan at Retail Unit and Plants – 2 types of "closeout/dispatch" event codes
  - SF – "Dispatched to Sort Facility" (Acceptance Scan)
  - EF – "Dispatch from Sort Facility" (Enroute Scan)
- o Shipping Services Program Registration Interface Modifications
  - The current feed from Program Registration to AMDC will be changed so that Program Registration will send the information directly to PTS instead of AMDC
- o Shipping Partner Event Files Modification to support Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb)
  - Shipping Partner Event File
  - Shipping Partner Error/Warning Data File
- PTS October release (10/16/2011)
  - o eVS Reconciliation Extracts
    - PTS portion done in October Release
    - eVS portion implemented in November
  - o Electronic Firm Sheet
    - Providing an automated delivery of a file with firm sheet content to commercial customers
  - o EDI Header/Detail Change (Infrastructure Change)
    - The details of the change includes additional "overhead" mailer information being added to the EDI 214 Transaction file (Extract File) and EDI 864 Transaction file (Confirmation/Error/Warning Report) to improve system processing time
    - The change is **NOT** adding any additional data to the customer files
- Adult signature went live on 6/5/2011
- IMpb update
  - o Highlights of proposed rule published April 28, 2011
    - Free Delivery Confirmation with unique tracking or Extra Services barcode January 2012
    - Tracking or Extra Service barcode required for presot and destination entry pricing January 2012
      - Transition period until June 4, 2012
    - PC Postage vendors required to use IMpb June 4, 2012
    - IMpb require for all Trcking and Extra Services barcodes effective June 3, 2012
      - 1.6 Shipping Service file required
      - ZIP + 4 Code or destination address required in file
    - New Barcode Banner Text
      - USPS TRACKING #
      - USPS SIGNATURE TRACKING #
  - o Comments due and received May 31, 2011 (~25 comments)
    - 3 customers/industry groups commented
    - Positive feedback on Free Delivery confirmation
  - o Clarification on timing requested

- Specify what is required by what date
  - Publication target date for final rule is June 30, 2011
- January Price Change
  - Highlights from Marc McCrery's presentation during the special session were given
    - Standard Mail parcels (machinable and irregular) moving to competitive products
      - Parcel Select Lightweight (ounce-based pricing)
    - Standard Mail Non-Profit (machinable and irregular) is staying under Standard Mail
    - Introducing Standard Mail Marketing
      - Presorted (formerly Not Flat-Machinable)
      - Carrier Route
      - Requires alternate address formats (size requirements)
    - First-Class Package Service moving to competitive
  - USPS Structured Release schedule was presented and it is posted on RIBBS (Jennifer Howard). This is a head start on what the mailers should expect in January

eVS Status – Jennifer Howard

- June 26th release – any MID (i.e. Mailer ID) that does not begin with a 9, their MID needs to be changed. This would be after the June 5th implementation. Note: There is only a limited number of mailers affected. This is specifically referring to the master MID. This need to be conformed and entered in AMDC correctly.
  - MID Conversion
  - Enhancements
  - Scheduled Fixes
    - Unmanifested records report page replication will be fixed (affects some mailers
    - Destination Rate Indicator Validation check will be restored
    - Duplicates adjustment functionality will be enabled
    - Unmanifested end of month update – packages will flow into correct month
  - Reminders: Rate ingredient clean-up – will result in manifest errors if they are used (Removal of PC – 8, 9; Removal of RI – 1E, 2E, 3E)
    - Note: these changes can be made at any point before the release
- June Release Impact
  - Destination Entry Validation
    - Warning for NDC, ASF, and SCF entry
    - eVS will monitor for accuracy; planned implementation for live recalculation is 10/1/2011
    - JM – How will this work with the redirect files? What will be the timing for the redirect? Ans. There would be a grace period for

some, but logic will be pulled (IT will verify) and sent out. **Action Item**: Details will be sent out to the group.
- Duplicates Adjustment
  - Initial review with July reconciliation; multiple packages using single PIC; reconciled against manifest ZIP (we will be monitoring closely)
- Manifest Errors: Invalid Rate Ingredients
  - Processing category or rate indicator obsolete in this release will result in a detail record manifest error
- Legacy Barcode '91' – accepted as valide bardcode contruct 'L01' in manifest file formats v1.5 and v1.6 (9-digit MID, 22-digit non-concatenated PIC)
- Marsha – will we be able to search for the PICs in the manifest search. Ans. yes. Was anything sent out regarding the rate ingredient clean up – yes. JHoward will follow up with Marsha to make sure she has the information.
- Lisa C – TEM environment will be available after June 26, 2011.

- Future Releases
  o November 2011 Release (Jennifer Howard)
  o Note: Technical Design Review in progress
    - USPS
      - Presort validation in eVS
      - Content eligibility adjustment
      - Sampling enhancements
        - Addressing sampling issues for Standard Mail
        - Automated validation of small sample sets for PAF
        - Obtaining additional samples from other sources
      - Automated refunds and reconciliation process
    - Customer requests
      - Better navigation of reports (eVS Web pages)
      - Easier download of postage statement summary data
      - Reconciliation extract for monthly postage adjustments

Questions / Comments from Industry

John M. - How much have we vetted the plan with the Industry for the November release? The items look new.
Jennifer H. – DMM changes forthcoming.

John M. thinks that this would be flawed moving forward and plans to follow up with Pritha. He doesn't think that the validation will be done with this new environment.

Lisa H. requested for agenda items for the next user group meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for *Thursday 07/14/2011 at 3:30pm*.